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| 24498 | 7590 | 10/29/2009 | | EXAMINER |
| Robert D. Shedd, Patent Operations | | | | ADDY, ANTHONY S |
| THOMSON Licensing LLC | | | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/660,141 | PERROT ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | ANTHONY S. ADDY | 2617 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 2-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on June 24, 2009. **Claim 1** has been cancelled and new **claim 10** has been added. **Claims 2-10** are now pending in the present application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on June 24, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that, "Nowhere does Meier show or suggest a device comprising a wireless interface for managing more than one MAC address for association with an access point of a centralized wireless network, wherein said associations are as defined by the IEEE 802.11 or Hiperlan2 standards, and a link management module for managing associations of different MAC addresses corresponding to devices connected to said at least one other network with said access point of said centralized wireless network, such that said devices connected to said at least one other network will appear as wireless stations to the access point," examiner respectfully disagrees and maintains that Meier teaches and meets the limitations as claimed. Examiner reiterates that Meier teaches a device (e.g., *WDAPs* 441) for connecting a centralized wireless network (e.g., *OWL radio network* 421) to at least one other network (e.g., *subnets* 401 and 403), said device being a wireless station compliant to the **IEEE 802.11** or Hiperland2 standards (see col. 20, lines 28-34, col. 22, lines 29-35, col. 24, lines 29-41 and Fig. 9). According to Meier, using a spanning tree configuration, the plurality of intermediate wireless access points such as WMAP 431, 433 and 435, provide a wireless communication

pathway between WDAP_s 441 and WDAP_P 425 to provide for communication among a plurality of remote stations on the subnets 401 and 403, such as a host computer 407 and personal computers 409, 411 and 413 (see col. 22, lines 20-35 and col. 24, line 50 through col. 25, lines 10), which thus shows that the device (WDAP_s 441) comprises a wireless interface for managing more than one MAC address (*e.g., the MAC addresses of remote stations 407 & 409*) for association with an access point (*e.g., WDAP_P 425*) of said centralized wireless network (*i.e., OWL radio network 421*). Furthermore, the spanning tree protocol contained at the device (WDAP_s 441) reads on a link management module, since the spanning tree protocol is known in the art as a link management protocol and is specifically implemented in the device (WDAP_s 441) for monitoring communication traffic flow related to associations and disassociations of communication terminals in the centralized wireless network 421 and the wired networks 401 & 403 (see col. 22, lines 20-35, col. 23, lines 23-29, col. 24, line 50 through col. 25, lines 10), hence it is clear the teachings of Meier above meets the claimed limitations directed to “a wireless interface for managing more than one MAC address for association with an access point of a centralized wireless network, wherein said associations are as defined by the IEEE 802.11 or Hiperlan2 standards, and a link management module for managing associations of different MAC addresses corresponding to devices connected to said at least one other network with said access point of said centralized wireless network, such that said devices connected to said at least one other network will appear as wireless stations to the access point.” Therefore, the rejections using Meier are proper and maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. **Claims 2 and 10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Meier, U.S. Patent Number 6,400,702 (hereinafter Meier)**.

Regarding **claim 10**, Meier teaches a device (e.g., *WDAP_s 441*) for connecting a centralized wireless network (e.g., *OWL radio network 421*) to at least one other network (e.g., *subnets 401 and 403*), said device being a wireless station compliant to the IEEE 802.11 or Hiperland2 standards (see col. 20, lines 28-34, col. 22, lines 29-35, col. 24, lines 29-41 and Fig. 9, *shows a wireless domain access point (WDAP_s 441) [i.e. reads on a device for connecting a centralized wireless network 421 to a plurality of other wired networks 401 & 403]*), and further comprising:

a wireless interface for managing more than one MAC address (e.g., the MAC addresses of remote stations 407 & 409) for association with an access point (e.g., WDAP_p 425) of said centralized wireless network, wherein said associations are as defined by the IEEE 802.11 or Hiperland2 standards (i.e., the claimed limitations of “a wireless interface for managing more than one MAC address for association with an access point” is met by the teaching of Meier that using a spanning tree configuration, the plurality of intermediate wireless access points such as WMAP 431, 433 and 435, provide a wireless communication pathway between WDAP_s 441 and WDAP_p 425 to provide for communication among a plurality of remote stations on the subnets 401 and 403, such as a host computer 407 and personal computers 409, 411 and 413) (see col. 22, lines 20-35 and col. 24, line 50 through col. 25, lines 10);

a bridge module for managing a plurality of ports for connecting to respective networks (see col. 10, lines 17-30, col. 20, lines 28-34, col. 24, lines 29-41 and col. 25, lines 8-10); and

a link management module for managing associations of different MAC addresses corresponding to devices (*e.g., Host 407 and PC 409*) connected to said at least one other network (*e.g., subnet 401*) with said access point (*i.e., WDAP_P 425*) of said centralized wireless network (*i.e., OWL radio network 421*) such that said devices (*i.e., Host 407 and PC 409*) connected to said at least one other network (*i.e., subnet 401*) will appear as wireless stations to the access point (see col. 22, lines 20-35, col. 23, lines 23-29, col. 24, line 50 through col. 25, lines 10 and Fig. 9 [*i.e., the spanning tree protocol contained at the bridge device (WDAP_s 441) reads on a link management module, since the spanning tree protocol is known in the art as a link management protocol and is specifically implemented in the bridging device (WDAP_s 441) for monitoring communication traffic flow related to associations and disassociations of communication terminals in the centralized wireless network 421 and the wired networks 401 & 403*]).

Regarding claim 2, Meier teaches all the limitations of claim 1. In addition, Meier further teaches a device, further comprising means for determining a spanning tree for all networks attached to the device, comprising means for enabling or disabling the determination of the spanning tree (see col. 22, lines 29-35, col. 23, lines 23-29 and col. 24, lines 29-41).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Meier, U.S. Patent Number 6,400,702 (hereinafter Meier)** as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Baker et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,570,366 (hereinafter Baker)**.

Regarding claim 3, Meier teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Meier fails to explicitly teach means for updating filtering tables for respective connected networks, said filtering tables comprising information for determining whether a message on a network is to be forwarded to another network or not, said updating using a process by default, comprising means for enabling or disabling the default process.

Baker, however, teaches a bridge-based access point comprising means for updating filtering tables for respective connected networks (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32, col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 1, 2 and 8), said filtering tables comprising information for determining whether a message on a network is to be forwarded to another network or not, said updating using a process by default (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44), comprising means for enabling or disabling the default process (see col. 5, lines 19-26 and Figures 1, 2 and 8).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Meier with Baker to include means for updating filtering tables for respective connected networks, said filtering tables comprising information for determining whether a message on a network is to be forwarded to another network or not, said updating using a process by default, comprising means for enabling or disabling the default process, in order to efficiently transfer filtering information concerning a mobile terminal from one access

point to another when the mobile terminal moves from the network of the one access point to the network of the another access point as per the teachings of Baker (see col. 2, lines 44-49).

Regarding claim 4, Meier in view of Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a device, wherein said default process is based on analysis of source address in messages detected on a respective network, comprising means for enabling or disabling message detection based updating (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 5-6 and 8).

Regarding claim 5, Meier in view of Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a device, further comprising means for updating a filtering table for a given network based on a device discovery process specific to said given network (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 2 and 8).

Regarding claim 6, Meier in view of Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a device, wherein said default process is enabled for an Ethernet network (see col. 3, lines 57-61 and col. 5, lines 19-32).

Regarding claim 7, Meier in view of Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 3. Baker further teaches a device, wherein said default process is disabled for a USB network (see col. 3, lines 57-61 and col. 5, lines 19-32 [i.e. the limitation “said default process is disabled for a USB network” is met by Baker, since Baker teaches the enabling and disabling of a wired network which broadly reads on a USB network]).

Regarding claim 8, Meier in view of Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 1. Baker further teaches a device, further comprising means for generating a message to said link management module upon a filtering table amendment, said means for generating a message

having an enabled state and a disabled state for each network (see col. 4, line 52 through col. 5, line 32 and col. 6, lines 35-44 and Figures 2 and 8).

Regarding claim 9, Meier in view of Baker teaches all the limitations of claim 8. Baker further teaches a device, wherein said means for generating a message are enabled for an Ethernet network (see col. 3, lines 57-61 and col. 5, lines 19-32).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Seaman, U.S. Patent Number 6,934,263 discloses spanning tree with protocol for bypassing port state transition timers.

Ohnishi, U.S. Patent Number 7,379,459 discloses address management method of MAC bridge and MAC bridge.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY S. ADDY whose telephone number is (571)272-7795. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. S. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Patrick N. Edouard/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617